

**From:** Benjamin Liberman  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To: Renata B. Hesse  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW  
Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

I would like to comment on the proposed settlement with Microsoft. The settlement does nothing to solve the problem of monopoly power the software giant wields. Even if Microsoft does everything required of it by the settlement (and there is very little chance it will, given the settlement's lack of enforcement mechanisms) it will still have too few restrictions on how it can use its considerable power. A real settlement must force Microsoft to make space for alternatives to its dominant software. Complete access to Microsoft's APIs is necessary to allow other software manufacturers to write software that will work as well with the Windows family of operating systems as Microsoft's own software. Microsoft's licensing must also be kept from quelling competition. Microsoft is now in the same position AT&T was twenty or so years ago, and should have similar restrictions placed on it - ideally the company should have been split into several competing software firms, but, barring that, it should have restrictions placed on pricing to allow the competition to catch up with the giant. In the end, that is what it boils down to - competition. If you do not fight for competition in the software arena, it will all but disappear. When it does, our own national security will be at stake, because Microsoft will own the electronic highway that is becoming more and more vital to the national economy. Even a benevolent company should not be allowed this power - and Microsoft has proven itself again and again to be anything but benevolent.

Thank you,

Benjamin Liberman  
Santa Fe, NM  
Computer Programmer  
Accent Optical Technologies